Demand for Newsprint Decontrol by INS

2110. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) who recently had a meeting with the Minister of Finance demanding "Newsprint decontrol" and protection to the indigenous newsprint manufacturing mills which are in Public/Joint Sector and behaving in a monopolistic manner, as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 25th November, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held, demands made by the delegation and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the customs duty on printing machinery/equipments etc. as demanded by the members of INS and made necessary additional allocations of funds in the ensuing Budget for clearing of DAVP's bills pending since long; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) A delegation of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) had met the Finance Minister on 24-11-94 and submitted a memorandum to him wherein the following main demands were made :—

(i) Decontrol of Newsprint;

(ii) Reduction in customs duty on printing machinery/equipments, spares, consumables etc.;

(iii) Acceptance of the lowest Commercial rates of newspaper establishments for Government advertisements, pending which enhancement of DAVP rates by 50 per cent on adhoc basis, due to increase in cost of newsprint, wages etc.; and

(iv) Allocation of additional funds to DAVP for clearance of pending advertisement bills.

In view of the ensuing Budget exercise, the details of the discussions cannot be made public.

Merger of Directorate of Film Festival with National Film Development Corporation

2111. SHRI HIPHEI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to merge the Directorate of Film Festival with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has since been considered by Government for the benefits of viewers and the staff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) Government reviews from time to time the various administrative arrangements relating to the Ministry and its constituents units of which the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) is one. No decision has been taken to merge the DFF with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC).

Telecast of Junior Asian Rowing Championship

2112. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements were made for telecast of the Junior Asian Rowing Championship held during the month of November, 1994 at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details of the arrangements made including the transmission times both live and recorded and Doordarshan channels dedicated therefor;

(c) the details of other sports/atheletic championship of juniors of National as well as of Asian levels covered by Doordarshan under direct and recorded telecast during the last three years; and

(d) the details of criteria followed by Doordarshan's national and regional networks, to give coverage to sports and games events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The championship was covered live on the national network as follows :—

24-11-94 . . .	1450 hrs. to 1604 hrs
25-11-94 . . .	1059 hrs. to 1300 hrs.
26-11-94 . . .	1113 hrs. to 1400 hrs.
27-11-94 . . .	1330 hrs. to 1400 hrs. and 1420 hrs. to 1554 hrs.

(c) The details are given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix 172 Annexure No. 48).

(d) Coverage of sports events in national and regional network is decided on the basis of importance of the events and viewers interest subject to availability of telecast rights, resources and technical feasibility.